

resources. So that the prospect is that the institution will be of still greater utility in future. An assay office will be of little value to the mining interest. For the reason that almost all the gold we receive was obtained from mines of long standing, which are worked at considerable depth, and where the gold is of nearly uniform value. If we do not have a coining establishment why, abolish the concern altogether. It will not be worth preserving. It will not be patronized, it will be cold and useless. Besides the expenses of the assay establishment will only dispense with the Supt., the coiner, and two workmen whose united salaries amount to 4500. per annum. Surely this small sacrifice is not necessary to propitiate favour to the great and necessary establishments in New York and California. Besides, my dear Sir, in a political point of view, the step would be exceedingly unwise. The mining interest is Whig in general, and if it were abolished we would be losers to a large amount, in a State whose political position is by no means over reliable. I have written at some length on a subject the interest of the public in which is much greater than mine. I hope you will do something to interest our friends in North Carolina in this matter. The community in which I live feels so deeply interested in the matter, that I would visit Washington and try to prevent the catastrophe if that would seriously affect its welfare.

*From S. A. White.*

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Rail Road,

Orange County, N. C.

January 27.,

1852.

Thinking it my duty, as one that has charge of so much in which you are interested, to have some correspondence with you, I take the present opportunity of writing you a few lines, to inform you of some of our operations on your contract.

I doubt not but you have been made fully acquainted with our proceedings, by Esqr. Johnston's letters, and from various other sources. But I will endeavor to give you at one view what we have done, what we are now doing, and what it is necessary to do, that the work may be carried to a successful and a speedy completion.

You are already informed that we commenced operations about the first of Sept. Since that time we have been constantly engaged